(f)The findings have revealed that no information or material of strategic improtance or of security concern had been lost in the theft.

National Defence University

1679. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a National Defence University and National Institute of Nano-technology as well as visa centre in Punjab in the near future;

(b) if so, by when and what shall be its activities;

(c) how far it would improve the national defence position; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up a similar university in Uttar Pradesh, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Committee on National Defence University has recommended the establishment of an Indian National Defence University. This will include existing institutes namely National Defence College (Delhi), National Defence Academy (Pune), Institute of Defence Management (Secunderabad) and Defence Services Staff College (Wellington) and new institutes namely National Institute of Strategic Studies, College of National Security Policy, Institute for Advanced Technology Studies (Bangalore). The objective of the proposed National Defence university is to undertake long-term defence and strategic studies and create synergy between the academic community and Government functionaries. The Government have not taken any decision to set up the Defence University either in Punjab or Uttar Pradesh.

There is not proposal to set up a visa cerrtretSr National Institute of Nano-technology in Punjab.

Relaxation of physical standards for recruitment in defence forces

1680. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government to relax the physical standards for recruitment to various posts in the defence forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Need has been felt for further relaxing of the existing physical standards,

Indian Troops for Golan Heights under UNDO Force

1681. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that group of 185 officers and troops have left Golan Heights along with other countries as a part of the United Nations Disengagement observer Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Indian contingent is separately conducting peacekeeping operations; and

(d) if so, the reasons behind separately carrying out operations when the troops are sent under United Nations Disengagement Observer Force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Government has issued sanction for induction of 185 personnel of Indian Army as Logistics Company in Golan Heights as part of United Nations (UN) Disengagement Observer Force. Out of this, 120 personnel have since been deployed in this Mission and the remaining personnel are scheduled to be deployed by the end of March, 2006.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Indian Army contingent is carrying out operations strictly under the United Nations mandate.